

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Kellie DiPalma

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

The workshop began at 6:00 p.m. Steven Ruscito, Kevin Zahm, Chris Savastano and Gail Abromitis were in attendance. Middletown High School Science NECAP test results were reviewed.

Middletown High School is participating in Physics First independently. We were invited to join EBEC Physics First project, but after applying we did not get accepted. The EBEC Chemistry curriculum components were assessed but there was no data on success so the decision was made to stay with “Chemistry in the Community”.

Next year will be the first year that all freshmen will be taking Physics, sophomores will be taking Chemistry, juniors will be taking Biology, and seniors will be taking AP courses or other science electives. Some students have not taken three years of science before the NECAP test because of conflicts with Rogers Vocational Technical or other scheduling issues.

There has been staff variability in the last few years due to retirements. Science curriculum work with Linda Newman will be complete by the end of the year. This work should identify gaps.

Mr. Ruscito and Mr. Zahm will present an update to the Committee in February. Ideas include creating a permanent .8 Chemistry and .2 Physics position, offering a science intervention program similar to the math/ELA grant, and offering grade 8 Algebra I for all students. Mr. Ruscito will provide a presentation on AP courses at the December School Committee Meeting.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Rosemarie Kraeger, Clerk. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Gail Abromitis, Vincent Giuliano, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

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Mrs. Kraeger requested nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.

Mrs. Liana Fenton nominated Mr. Michael Crowley.

Mr. William O'Connell seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To close the nominations for School Committee Chairman. Unanimous vote.

With the nominations closed, the Clerk cast one ballot for Mr. Michael Crowley as Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.

Mrs. Kraeger turned the meeting over to Mr. Crowley, Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.

Mr. Crowley called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.

Mrs. Liana Fenton nominated Mrs. Theresa Spengler.

Mr. William O'Connell seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. To close nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Unanimous vote.

With the nominations closed, the Chairperson cast one ballot for Mrs. Theresa Spengler as Vice-Chairperson.

Mrs. Theresa Spengler was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Middletown School Committee.

Mr. Crowley called for nominations for Clerk of the School Committee.

Mrs. Theresa Spengler nominated Mrs. Rosemarie Kraeger.

Mrs. Liana Fenton seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Crowley cast one ballot for Mrs. Kraeger to continue as Clerk of the School Committee.

The next order of business was to assign committee members to sub-committees. Mr. Crowley suggested all members reviewing the list of committees and their current assignments and following up at the December meeting.

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PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Mrs. Kraeger congratulated Girls' Soccer Coach Dave Kolater on their season. Student awards were presented for Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week and Student of the Week.

•American Education Week – Mr. Ruscito accepted a proclamation on behalf of the principals for American education week.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force”

This will be presented at a future meeting.

INFORMATION

FIELDING NAIR VIDEO “FOREST AVENUE LEARNING COMMUNITY”

– This video highlights the Forest Avenue School Learning Community will be shown across the world. Parents, teachers, students, and Administrators are interviewed.

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- A meeting was held with Ron Wolaski, Town Planner, to discuss the Coddington Master Plan
- A meeting was held regarding AIMS (Aquidneck Island Math, Science Academy)
- Letter from Impact Aid congratulating Middletown on being involved with Impact Aid for 60 years
- Mrs. Kraeger's appointment as State Commissioner to the Interstate compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

CORRESPONDENCE

No "Correspondence" for November 23, 2010.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2010 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 26, 2010, in the amount of \$644,405.96

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- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 28, 2010, in the amount of \$2,163.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 2, 2010, in the amount of \$801.25
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 9, 2010, in the amount of \$280,442.35

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION

Colleen Maher 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, District-Wide

J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISORS

Nancy Ashmore Yearbook Advisor

Ron Dumais Computer Club Advisor

Jill Armstrong Art Club Co-Advisor

Jonathan Paquette Art Club Co-Advisor

Heidi Gauch Student Council Advisor (beginning January 3, 2011)

WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Kevin Lendrum Boys' Varsity Basketball

Raleigh Brennan Boys' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Charles Russ Boys' 6/7/8th Grade Basketball

Mike Yates Girls' Varsity Basketball

Dave Pritchard Girls' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Keith Holubesko Girls' 6/7/8th Grade Basketball

Andrew Bulk Varsity Wrestling

Henry Lombardi Assistant Varsity Wrestling

Carlton Brietzke 6/7/8th Grade Wrestling

Timothy Anderson Varsity Swim

Theresa DiGiovanni Assistant Swim

Shannon Farrell Varsity Gymnastics

Stephen Saunders Varsity Hockey

Jay Punsky Assistant Varsity Hockey

Renee Brietzke Cheerleading

ACTION ITEMS

AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR HR6 – TITLE 8 – 874 IMPACT AID

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to apply for HR6 – title 8 – 874 Impact Aid. Unanimous vote.

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APPROVE MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Mathematics Curriculum. Unanimous vote.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE DATES

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2011. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 10-11-02. Unanimous vote.

BUS SMART CAMERA

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve entering into an “agreement” with SMARTBUS. Unanimous vote.

A video records cars that drive through flashing lights and a citation is sent to the vehicle owner. Of the proceeds generated, the state will receive 12.5%, the town 12.5%, and SMARTBUS receives 75%. This has been implemented in other communities. The proposal is contingent upon town approval.

OLD BUSINESS

•SCHOOL BASED CLINICS – Over 600 students were inoculated. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Geer, Mr. Collins, and the Fire Chief for organizing volunteers. The high school clinic is scheduled for December 7th.

•LITTLE COMPTON – Correspondence has been received from the Little Compton School Department inquiring as to whether Middletown would be interested in being Little Compton’s school of choice for high school students. Each school district will give a presentation to the Little Compton School Committee and parents highlighting why they feel they should be the school of choice.

•RTTT – Notice has been received that the Scope of Work has been

approved. All areas meet the requirement. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Savastano for compiling the information.

NEW BUSINESS

- COMMISSIONER GIST VISIT** – Commissioner Gist will visit Middletown on April 14, 2011. The Commissioner will visit a classroom to see teaching and learning in progress towards the end of day. A meeting with teachers will then take place, followed by a meeting with the community.

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- AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS** – A grant has been received which will cover busses for this program. These interventions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will target math and reading needs.

- TOWN COUNCIL/SCHOOL COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT** – This is tentatively scheduled for December 13th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•Curriculum – In the School Committee Package, Mrs. Savastano included sample agendas for the math curriculum roll out. Work will continue throughout the school year. Most of the journals for everyday math are available online. More online resources will be used. A professional development day will be held on November 24th at Gaudet Schools.

•Financial – Ms. Pellerin reported that Chartells has received a grant from the New England Dairy Council to have smoothies served at schools. The state budget is being monitored for possible reductions. Impact Aid payments are still being monitored and a prior year payment has been received. This was due to a meeting Mrs. Kraeger has with Senator Reed. Mr. Crowley suggested sending Senator Reed a thank you note from the School Committee. Auditing regulations for compliance testing will be the end of December or early January. The 09-10 audit is underway. We are still working with New World trying to get UCOA up and running. At the next meeting, there will be a timeline for the 2011-12 budget. There will be discussion with the Principals and Directors regarding a zero based budget. There is talk about common budgets for the state.

•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that the Aquidneck School parking lot will be completed by next week. Planting will begin in the spring, upon the Tree Commissions approval. The high school Bradley project is 70% complete. Flooring will be completed over Christmas

vacation. The department is beginning start-up maintenance on the heating system and preparing the fields for winter.

Regarding the electrical expenses, National Grid had been outperformed for a few months, but it is now the opposite with a 60/40 split. Mr. Collins reported that the school department continually avoids larger costs.

In October, 164 events were scheduled in the schools and there are 1300 events running through April, 2011. The buildings are being used a great deal by the community. The Facilities Department completed 180 work orders in the past month.

Mrs. Fenton asked about installing a wind turbine at Gaudet School. Mr. Collins said Gaudet School could not accommodate the necessary height due to the nearby airport.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Spengler attended a meeting today at Town Hall regarding the West Main Road Master Plan. A lot of questions were raised regarding the J.F.K. School. It was recommended to those in attendance that the Fielding Nair report be read.

Mrs. Fenton attended a PK-16 meeting last week. There was discussion around teacher education at the college level meeting R.I. regulations.

Mr. Crowley attended a presentation to the Newport County Fund regarding a STEM Academy. Some in attendance came away with a feeling that this is intended as a regional academy, but we should maintain our interest in it.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Michael Crowley, 2) Theresa Spengler. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk